

(Washington, DC) - Today, U.S. Representative Jason Altmire (PA-4) welcomed Rev. Donald Green of McCandless to deliver the opening prayer on the Floor of the United States House of Representatives.

In his prayer, Rev. Green called on lawmakers to strive for civility in public discourse. "Grant them humility and openness to listen to their opponents and adversaries before condemning their positions or denigrating their person," said Rev. Green. "Give them courage to seek reconciliation with our enemies, encouraging negotiation and diplomacy instead of violence as the means to lasting peace in our conflicted world."

Rev. Donald Green is Executive Director of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, an organization that seeks to be "a unifying voice in the name of Jesus Christ for the mission of the Gospel and the wholeness of communities." Rev. Green has led a number of trips abroad to assist in aid relief efforts. His travels have taken him to Kenya and Zambia to visit projects funded by the Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran World Federation. In 1997, he visited missions in India, and in 1999, he took a group of volunteers to Puerto Rico to assist in hurricane relief. Rev. Green also led a group of volunteers to Madagascar to help Malagasy youth lay the foundation for a youth center in Tulear. Upon completion of the center, it was named the "Pastor Don Green Youth Center" in his honor.

"I have known Pastor Green for many years through our involvement in the McCandless Rotary Club, which is just one of the many service organizations Pastor Green lends his time to in western Pennsylvania. He is an extraordinary man, and it is an honor to present him to you today," said Congressman Altmire in remarks to his colleagues on the House Floor this morning. He also spoke of Rev. Green's "commitment to his community and commitment to service above self."

Each day, proceedings on the House Floor are opened with a morning prayer. Members of Congress can invite one guest Chaplain to deliver the prayer each year.